



The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

Information for Principals

The 2009 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge is underway. We strongly encourage your school's participation. Involvement in the Summer Reading Challenge will support and enhance your ongoing efforts to help every student become a proficient and confident reader. The program will recognize schools for participation and the number of books read, as well as "Outstanding Public Library-School Partnerships."

In order to make this event meaningful, we ask that you consider the following:

- Schedule a planning meeting with teachers, your school librarian, selected PTA members and representatives from your local library to discuss your school's participation in the Challenge.
- Prepare a letter about the importance of reading and comprehension and distribute copies to all of your students and their parents. Let them know your school is participating in the Summer Reading Challenge, and encourage them to accept the Challenge, too. (Certificates will be awarded to schools with 100 percent student participation. Winning schools will be recognized in a special ceremony.)
- Distribute with your letter the reading journals, reading lists and other materials that are part of your school's efforts to encourage reading, and the information sheet "Message to Parents and Students" and "What You Can Do." Please make as many copies of the information sheet as you need.
- During July, conduct a schoolwide summer reading activity — a reading picnic, rally, assembly, book signing, etc.
- Consider sending a letter to parents and students in early August to encourage students to keep reading.
- Plan to tally the results when students return in September. Brief instructions and a copy of the tally sheet are available on the State Department of Education's website (<http://www.ct.gov/sde>). (Please note that students will be asked to list the titles of books they read during the summer in their reading journals. Be sure to return the journals to your students after the necessary information has been recorded.)

Contact the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge project at the State Department of Education (860-713-6762) if you have any questions. Website: www.ct.gov/sde

Thank you for supporting the Summer Reading Challenge, and for all you do year-round to enrich the lives of Connecticut students.